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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/505,148	01/12/2005	Paul A Cameron	118989-04313564	5706
20583	7590	01/07/2008		
JONES DAY 222 EAST 41ST ST NEW YORK, NY 10017			EXAMINER COONEY, JOHN M	
			ART UNIT 1796	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 01/07/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/505,148	CAMERON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	John Cooney	1796	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-24 and 28-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-24 and 28-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10-31-07 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1, 3-24, and 28-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants do not provide in their originally filed supporting disclosure written description of a means for making a hydroxyl compound consisting of a polyester formed from only a dimer fatty acid or from only a dimer fatty diol. This is a new matter rejection.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 3-24, and 28-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants' claims are confusing as to intent because it can not be determined what materials are intended to be included or excluded by the amendment incorporating the transitional language "consisting of" into the definition of the claims. The closed language "consisting of" should limit the defined element to only those elements which follow its use. However, (1.) it is not seen how a hydroxyl compound consisting of a polyester can be formed from only a dimer fatty acid or from only a dimer fatty diol, and (2.) applicants' dependent claims {see, for example, claim 3} seem to contradict the intents of the closed transitional language "consisting of".

What material exclusions and/or inclusions are intended by applicants' current amendments can not be definitively determined, and, accordingly, applicants' claims are confusing as to intent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-24, and 28-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vinches et al.(4,602,079) in view of Limerkens et al.(5,840,782).

Vinches et al. disclose preparations of polyurethane elastomers having good hydrolysis resistance based on the reaction of polyester polyols derived from the reaction of dimer fatty acids and other acids such as adipic acid with polyols such as diethylene glycol, polyisocyanate prepolymers prepared from isocyanates and the polyester polyols disclosed, and chain extenders, all employed for their reactive effects, wherein, further, elastomers prepared from isocyanate-terminated prepolymers based on the described polyester polyols are reacted with chain extenders in the presence of surfactants, catalysts, and additives to form shaped articles including shoe soles (see column 1 lines 25-31, column 3 line 23 – column 7 line 63, the examples, and the entire document). Vinches et al. provides for other carboxylic acid in amounts meeting the ratios of the claims, and provides for the inclusion of trimer contents to the degrees claimed (column 4 lines 54-55).

Vinches et al. differs from the claims in that microcellular foam formation is not particularly recited. However, Limerkens et al. recites employment of water at time of reaction in the making of related polyurethane microcellular foams used in shoe soling applications for the purpose of imparting the foaming effect (see column 3 line 65 – column 4 line 24, as well as, the entire document). Accordingly, it would have been

obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art to have employed water in the manner taught by Limerkens et al. in the preparation of the articles of Vinches et al. for the purpose of imparting cushioning and weight reducing effects to the articles realized in order to arrive at the products and processes of applicants' claims with the expectation of success in the absence of a showing of new or unexpected results.

Applicants' arguments have been considered. However, rejection is maintained.

The following arguments set forth previously are maintained:

Applicants' arguments have been considered but are unpersuasive and the rejection is maintained for the reasons set forth above. It is maintained that the references are properly combined for the reasons set forth above, and it is maintained that a prima facie case of obviousness has been established.

That the primary reference discloses provisions for the presence of some degree of water does not negate or overcome the rejection as set forth above. The secondary reference is looked to for teachings of means for enacting foaming in polyurethane elastomers to form microcellular foam structures. Whether the amounts of water included/allowed for in the preparations of Vinches et al. leads to formation of microcellular foam structures to some degree is not an issue set forth by the examiner in light of the fact that Vinches et al. is silent as to microcellularity and other cell structures in the articles of their invention. However, this disclosure of Vinches et al. does not negate the combinability of Vinches et al. with a reference which goes into the microcellular foam structure arising from the use of water and other blowing agents and the controls of density associated with their use.

Applicants' recitation of tensile strength retention values in their claims has been considered. However, based on difference in the make-up of the compositions claimed over those of Vinches et al. not being established, it is seen that these physical characteristics are qualities which would be possessed by the compositions disclosed by Vinches et al. Accordingly, such features of the claims are not seen to be differences under 35 USC 103. This recitation in the claims does not relieve applicants of their burden to demonstrate new or unexpected results attributable to the differences indicated in the rejection above which are commensurate in scope with the scope of the claims as they currently stand. At this time a sufficient showing of new or unexpected results has not been made evident.

Result Must Compare to Closest Prior Art:

Where a definite comparative standard may be used, the comparison must relate to the prior art embodiment relied upon and not other prior art – *Blanchard v. Ooms*, 68 USPQ 314 – and must be with a disclosure identical (not similar) with that of said embodiment: *In re Tatincloux*, 108 USPQ 125.

Results Must be Unexpected:

Unexpected properties must be more significant than expected properties to rebut a prima facie case of obviousness. *In re Nolan* 193 USPQ 641 CCPA 1977.

Obviousness does not require absolute predictability. *In re Miegel* 159 USPQ 716.

Since unexpected results are by definition unpredictable, evidence presented in comparative showings must be clear and convincing. *In re Lohr* 137 USPQ 548.

In determining patentability, the weight of the actual evidence of unobviousness presented must be balanced against the weight of obviousness of record. *In re Chupp*, 2 USPQ 2d 1437; *In re Murch* 175 USPQ 89; *In re Beattie*, 24 USPQ 2d 1040.

Claims Must be Commensurate With Showings:

Evidence of superiority must pertain to the full extent of the subject matter being claimed. *In re Ackerman*, 170 USPQ 340; *In re Chupp*, 2 USPQ 2d 1437; *In re Murch* 175 USPQ 89; *Ex Parte A*, 17 USPQ 2d 1719; accordingly, it has been held that to overcome a reasonable case of prima facie obviousness a given claim must be commensurate in scope with any showing of unexpected results. *In re Greenfield*, 197 USPQ 227. Further, a limited showing of criticality is insufficient to support a broadly claimed range. *In re Lemin*, 161 USPQ 288. See also *In re Kulling*, 14 USPQ 2d 1056.

Applicants' have not persuasively demonstrated unexpected results for the combinations of their claims. Comparisons have not been related to the prior art embodiment relied upon. Applicants have not demonstrated their results to be clearly and convincingly unexpected and more significant than being secondary in nature. Applicants' showings are not commensurate in scope with the scope of combinations now claimed.

As to the amount values of claims 35-36, these are values contained in or close in overlap with other claims of applicants' invention and are addressed in the rejection and arguments above.

Further, distinction based on the single polyester defined by the claims is not seen to be evident based on the teachings of prior art, nor is limitation to exclude other materials and/or polyesters beyond the defined polyesters of the claims reflected by the limitations of the claims.

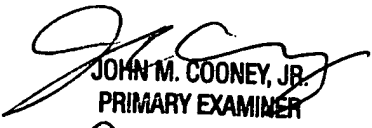
Applicants' amendments and arguments have been considered. However, rejection is maintained. It is not evident nor is it seen that applicants' claims exclude and/or distinguish over the materials provided for by the teachings of the cited prior art. Even with attempting to look beyond the issues associated with confusion in the claims addressed in the rejections under 35USC 112 1st and 2nd paragraphs set forth above (though these issues can not be ignored in determining the ultimate metes and bounds of the instant claims), the claims are only seen to require some degree of the presence of whatever compound is being defined by component (ii) of applicants' claims. The rest of the claim is not restricted by the transitional language "consisting of" to exclude other materials including other polyester and/or hydroxyl compounds.

Further, regarding applicants' arguments as to results, the diagram provided in applicants' reply does not substitute for a clear and convincing, factually demonstrated, showing of new or unexpected results that are commensurate in scope with the scope of applicants' claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Cooney whose telephone number is 571-272-1070. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9 to 6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck, can be reached on 571-272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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